

NECC Observer

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Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, Mass. 01830

Student costs may drop



Healthy habits

A LARGE CROWD attends a fair on Lawrence Common. Games and pony rides were open to children, all in the interest of promoting safe family health practices. See story, page 9

R. Nelson photo

President proposes 2.5 percent cut for day and evening students

By M. CONNERY & G. SCIONE
Editors

For the second year in a row, NECC will take aim to cut tuition for students. At the May 14 Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees will vote to cut tuition by two and half percent for both day and evening students.

The state recently proposed to cut tuition across the board for Massachusetts community colleges by 2.5 percent for daytime students, but President David Hartleb doesn't believe it is good enough.

He has proposed in addition, to cut tuition by the same mark for all division of continuing education students.

"This cut is a real cut," Hartleb said. "I am concerned about the high cost for tuition for students."

The fees are slated to hold at their current rate, unlike last year when fees were raised to balance out the costs of NECC's new marketing projects, among other things. In 1996, tuition cut by \$4 per credit hour, while the fees were boosted by \$8, resulting in a net increase of \$4 per credit.

This year, however, Hartleb believes student costs will go down for both daytime and DCE courses if the state's and president's proposals pass.

If the plan passes at the May 14 trustees meeting, then average per student costs will drop by about \$2 for every credit hour.

New core values statement ok'd

A Beginning

"I think they're fine, as long as people realize they are just a start," said Linda Hummel-Shea, coordinator of library services.

New wording approved without a hitch as planning process moves on

By KEVIN KYLE
Managing Editor

After review and revision by the Core Values Task Force, a new Core Values Statement was presented to the NECC community at a recent All College Council Meeting.

Core Values, as defined by the Steering Committee, are guidelines to help the school focus on its mission and goals, avoiding undertakings that contradict with its purpose.

"I think they're fine, as long as people realize they are just a start," said Linda Hummel-Shea, coordinator of library services and core values task force member.

Hummel-Shea said the core values are intended to be brief and concise and can't include all the information people might like to see. She said more detail will be available after the steering committee, president and facilitators meet at a scheduled retreat and analyze the information gathered.

The core values, as they were adopted by the All-College Council, are:

- ✓ A commitment to student success provided by a dedicated, professional faculty, staff and administration knowledgeable in current developments in their respective fields.

- ✓ A commitment to effective instruction and high academic standards encouraging active engagement by students in their own learning and achievement.

- ✓ A commitment to provide high quality instruction in the following areas: developmental education, liberal arts education, special interest/enrichment education, and technical and career education.

- ✓ A commitment to provide educational access to a diverse student body with essential specialized student support services.

- ✓ A commitment by faculty, staff, administration and students to grow and work together in a cooperative environment of shared governance, open communication, fairness and mutual respect.

- ✓ A commitment to anticipate, seek out and address the educational, cultural and economic needs of various constituencies in the Merrimack Valley.

The statement was passed by the All-College Council with no opposition.

President David Hartleb said focus group, student survey and document review information collected during the internal and external scans would begin during the facilitators' May visit.

When the facilitators, president and steering committee members meet in June for a Maine retreat, they will analyze the information more closely and provide the facilitators with directions as to what kind of suggestions they are looking for.

See PLANNING, page 4

1 million vitamins for poor children

Open Door Christian Fellowship hopes to aid Romanian kids this summer

By CAROLYN DRAGO
Staff Reporter

James Gustafson, professor of philosophy and religion, will join 29 members of the Romanian Evangelistic Medical Mission to help children in Romania.

REMM, is a "non-profit, nondenominational organization that ministers to Romanians by word and deed," Belinda Castor, M.D. said. She is head of the Manchester, N.H. based section of REMM.

Students involved in NECC's Open Door Fellowship Club, known for its charitable community efforts, shared Gustafson's enthusiasm about REMM and made it a co-project.

"This year, REMM's focus is on the children of Romania," Gustafson said. "The goal of the campus Open Door Fellowship Club is to aid the mission by acquiring one million vitamins, enough to benefit one thousand Romanian children for a year."

Gustafson and club members are contacting pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers of vitamins for donations to help them meet their goal. Students and are

also encouraged to donate.

Romanian children suffer from malnutrition and unsanitary living conditions.

"There have been no dentists, nurses or medical care there since the collapse of communism," Gustafson said. "These people are 30 years behind times."

So, in addition to vitamins, children will be provided with fluoride toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Gustafson is spirited about the opportunity to improve the lives of the Romanian children.

"My role will be as a facilitator, to reach out to the children. We're all put on Earth to help each other if we have the opportunity," he said.

The supplies, which are being transported free to Europe by Northwest Airlines, will then be transported at heavy expense to the village of Beius, Romania. Each mission member will raise \$1,600 for supplies and the cost of freight.

"Cash donations for the transportation of supplies would be graciously received," Gustafson said.

Upon their arrival, REMM members will assist the recently established medical clinic in Beius. They will care for children and orphans and provide them with crayons and paper and teach them religious songs.

Despite the difficulty involved in organizing these missions, "for the past five years I've been involved, everything seems

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Quote of the Day

We're all put on Earth to help each other if we have the opportunity," he said.
James Gustafson, page 1

Class of '97

Looking forward to commencement on May 31

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Opinion

Editor takes a stroll down memory lane

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A fond farewell

Observer staffers leave

Thanks to all the people who have helped make a difference. To President David Hartleb, we have appreciated your kindness and openness. You always returned our calls and during personal interviews you have been warm and engaging.

It has only been a short time, but to Vice-President Mary Ellen Ashley, we wish you every success as you implement your goals for NECC.

It is never easy to say thanks to all

Editorial

the people who made efforts to give us their time, but we would like you all to know, faculty, staff, administrators and students that without your input, our efforts would have been futile.

With your cooperation, we learned skills, gained confidence and succeeded here, so that we could move on and become journalists that are a credit to this college.

He's just wondering

◆ Varied ramblings about what ought to be

By JACK SHIRLING
Staff Reporter

Just wondering... How to give more time when I don't have enough as it is?

President Clinton's proposal asking people to give more time to helping others is unrealistic. Hello, Bing Bong, Mr. President, people are working more and more hours. It takes a set of parents to work harder and longer to make ends meet. It's a hell of a concept, though, just not viable.

Just wondering... When will racism end?

Last time I looked at a skeleton the bones were white, regardless of whether its skin was black or white. Last time I read a human biology book all people bleed red, regardless of the color of their skin. Everyone's teeth are white. Enough is enough. Let's teach our children a person's skin color means nothing.

Just wondering... When will a cure for AIDS come?

With all the brilliant men and women around the world shouldn't we already have it? I believe this is a man made disease concocted to kill off humans in a controlled manner. Therefore, if it was concocted, it shouldn't have an antidote?

Just wondering... If John Lennon were still alive would we have already had a Fab Four reunion?

Kids today will never know what the Beatles gave us. They revolutionized rock and roll. They brought an innocence with them that we will never see again. They needed no mosh pit, they needed no profanity. They made their mark with beautifully written lyrics. Oh, if John were still alive just... imagine.

Just wondering... What is heaven like? Is it warm? Is it just one very beautiful golf course? Is it just a reunion coffee house? I think it is whatever you want it to be. But there are a few prerequisites before the pearly gates are opened to you. Will you measure up?

What's Heaven Like?

Is it warm? Is it just one very beautiful golf course? Is it just a reunion coffee house? I think it is whatever you want it to be.

Columns

Just wondering... How Professor John Guarino is doing?

He is one of the best professors this school has ever had. Guarino fell victim to prostate cancer and retired last year. He taught with an enthusiasm that was unparalleled. This man was so animated standing in front of a chalk board you couldn't help but learn. I can say without hesitation that, he was the best teacher I ever had. Good luck, God bless and thank you. (No slight to any teacher who is about to give me a final grade).

Just wondering... When will Massachusetts bring back capital punishment?

Wake up people! It's needed. We pay for criminals to go to jail. If someone killed your kid, would it change your view? I believe in an eye for an eye.

Just wondering... What's it like to be rich?

I can't imagine. I wouldn't have to worry about how much braces will set me back. I wouldn't have those annoying bill collectors calling me. My gas bill would be paid. I'd have a new set of King Cobra golf clubs. Hell, I'd even have two bathrooms.

Just wondering... Why do people pierce their eyebrows, their noses etc....

Why do you? Is it a statement? If so, what kind?

Just wondering... How the Observer staff from two years ago is doing?

Parry Headrick, Richmond Dawson, Bryan Moore, Bruce Baron to name a few. They were yet another award winning staff. Thanks to these people I was able to learn a lot. Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, good luck and thank you.

Just wondering... Why doesn't New Hampshire celebrate Martin Luther King day?

I don't even want to touch this, but please feel free to call the NH statehouse and ask them.

Just wondering... If someone were to offer you a million dollars and all you had to do is be a minority, would you?

I, for one, would not. Although racism has begun to shrink, it still has a long way to go.

Just wondering... Why a trash burning plant is built on a river?

I don't know, but nothing good can come from it, unless Dioxins are good and we all know they're not.

Just wondering... Why would someone write a column talking about their masturbation experiences?

Don't know, don't want to know either. Just wondering... What goes through a person's mind who has killed another because he or she was drinking?

I don't think any of us wants to find out. After graduation, please don't drink and then drive. It's not worth it. Good luck to all.



Rock music is dead, and that may be ok

◆ MTV and others sell out for the sake of the almighty dollar

By JOSH DAVIDSON
Staff Reporter

Mention music of the '90s, and if you know music, you experience an acute migraine. This is what today's music has come to: mindless bantering by people raised on watching too much of the idiot box.

Rock is dead and our generation has let it happen. Most people continue to reward poor talent by buying albums of subpar quality. Making money in the music industry seems to take little effort, all you need to know is the right people. Hold your money for the talent. If there isn't any, save your money.

Look at rap music, which in itself is an oxymoron (The reference to music after rap). The qualifications for rap stardom is crack smoking, drive-by-shootings and an absence of schooling.

The popularity of this kind of noise insults the integrity of society. Have any of you rap lovers noticed that all the songs on any given album sound the same? Rappers have no vocal range or musical skill. They sample other people's music and run them in over played loops.

Using that rationale anyone proficient with a computer can be a rap star. The difference is intelligent people do not want to be rap stars because it is unproductive.

Many will defend this nonsense by saying rappers are saying what they are going through, and what they see on the streets. If these rappers want people to know their struggle, they can write a book. Then maybe people will take them seriously. They can keep their violence and negativity to themselves. Ignorant people actual look up to them and try to imitate them.

Aerosmith came out with a new album and of course it sucks, further illustrating that rock is dead. The group back in their heyday were desirable with such songs as "Sweet Emotions" and "Draw the Line" which were pioneering songs for their time.

Opinion Column

None of the songs on the charts today will be remembered. These are the days where The Spice Girls, The Notorious B.I.G. and No Doubt rule the charts. Next year these groups will be treated like Vanilla Ice, long gone.

They have either no message or the wrong message and only reflect their own stupidity. The Spice Girls are, count them, five bimbos. This was not always true. Real rock groups such as The Doors, The Who and The Grateful Dead had useful messages and reflected their generation's ideals.

Intelligent people want intelligent music, something you can relate to. Singers like Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix didn't just sing the music, they became the music. Rock musicians that happened virtually over night became legends. Let's face it, we can't compare them to Kurt Cobain.

Music back then had integrity and molded the minds of a generation. The music promoted breaking away from your parents' ideals and using expanded thinking to create a communion with your fellow man. Peace and love probably have lost significance in this limited attention span society, but can still do good for people.

The audience and the band have to become one in order to get something out of the experience. Rock music should lift you out of the everyday doldrums of life.

The right look and movement towards who can out shock who is what rock has boiled down to. Marilyn Manson, shock rocker shows just how talentless the music industry is. His albums hardly have any music on them. His songs, if you want to call them that, are mostly sound samples, much or almost exactly like White Zombies.

Maybe someone will come around with something good to say, and say it. If musicians could realize what their purpose should be instead of focusing on the tabloid readers and the almighty dollar, I might buy some of their CDs, and maybe others would, too.

It is discouraging to know the MTV generation has supported the musical look and forgotten about the music itself. If we demand good music, the crap will disappear.

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Fall 1996

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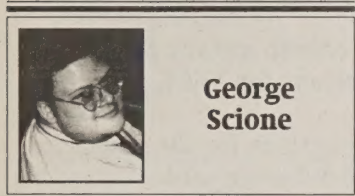
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3 years and many changes later



George Scione

◆ Editor says farewell after 7 semesters and many memories

Yesterday, when sitting in the class for the second last day at NECC, three years flashed before my eyes. It seems like just yesterday that Central Catholic released the class of '94 from its walls. Now, pondering the next move, nothing but memories come into this mind.

Cigar smoke filled the room of teary-eyed seniors. A packed gymnasium of young men crying, something never imaginable in this day and age of tough guys. But it was different than what the outside world had ever seen. Everyone had friends and cared about each other. Everyone said what amounted to last good-byes as almost everyone went away to different colleges.

Dartmouth, Harvard, Northeastern, Brown, UMass Amherst – so many schools. Luckily, I wasn't accepted to any of the four-year schools, so NECC was here for me. That first semester, nothing clicked. Unsure of myself, I slacked off in class, just like during my last two years in high school.

One comes to NECC and is laughed at. This place is called Harvard by the Kenoza, NECCO Beach and NECCO. It's a small college, but it's filled with professors dedicated to teaching. It was one of those dedicated teachers, Joseph LeBlanc, who got me on the right track. After taking his Journalism I class, NECC came through for me again, and I was suddenly connected to the NECC Observer.

Life as an Observer staff member... Thanks to Joe, the first door to campus life was opened. In my first semester, and as a staff reporter, I joined the core staff in putting the paper together, making some good friends.

I moved up in position every semester, from sports editor, opinion page editor and managing editor to what I am today – co-editor of one of the nation's best college newspapers. It was my first semester on core staff, however, that really opened my eyes to the friendships I would make. As co-sports editor with my partner, Danny Roger, who is now the infamous "Balloon Boy" on Portsmouth, N.H.'s the HEAT 95.3, I found a

friend that I will have for life.

That is the most important thing about this newspaper, or any campus activity: you meet people and make connections. Sure, there are times when school, work and extracurriculars conflict, but you have to work through them.

Anguish of three jobs at once... I have to admit, three jobs is hard. Working part-time at the Eagle-Tribune (30-35 hours), at the NECC Observer (30-40 hours during production weeks) and then trying to concentrate on school work is not an easy task.

Time management is the key in college life, and from splitting time over all three things, I have gotten somewhat better. Of course, a lot of credit goes to Joe and assistant adviser Laura McKellar for their guidance in teaching me how to write. If not for that, I wouldn't have a job at the Eagle Tribune and would be still scooping ice cream at Friendly's. What is even more frustrating than putting up with hours and hours of work, is having nice people leave.

Good-byes... Thank God Marshall "Jack" Hess was gone before I got here. People like Norm Landry, Carl Beal, Eugene Connolly, John Guarino and even President John Dimitry were all an influence on me – all of whom I never had as teachers.

Dimitry, often times under fire for his "administrators come first" attitude, is a decent man, who in his final interview with a fellow reporter and myself made my eyes open to the demands put on the man at the top. He was looking forward to retirement, reading, flying and traveling. Since his freedom from hassle began, I have seen him a few times still visiting the campus.

One day at the Bentley Library, I bumped into the former president and chatted for 20 minutes about the books he had been reading. He seemed so happy to get away from the hassle of presidential life and into the pages of his favorite books.

Beal was my first interview as a reporter. To this day I remember his gracious attitude, even when I asked tough questions about cutting programs and why NECC wanted to expand rather than cut.

Landry, dean of student services, was a hard working man whose open door policy applied to everyone. It was sad to see one of the colleges, dare I say, founding fathers leave the college after so many years.

Aside from the administrators, come the more important faculty members, whose guidance out of the classroom was just as important as professors I had in class. Connolly and Guarino are two people who taught me life lessons during hallway chats. Now with Connolly speaking at my graduation, my send off will be complete.



It's bear hug time for the big guy

K. Pickard photo

EDITOR GEORGE Scione surprises adviser Joe LeBlanc during a photo taking session after the staff won a Silver Crown Award in New York this spring.

New arrivals...

President David Hartleb, VP Mary Ellen Ashley and AD Nita Lamborghini joined the NECC family over the last two years. Hartleb came in with a vision, and his plans seem to be taking off in the right direction. Unlike the former president, Hartleb seems more a faculty and student-oriented leader.

Lamborghini was next to join the community. She jumped right into the fire, running a commuter college sports program.

Ashley replaced Landry as head of student services, but also handles the task of enrollment issues. The newest member of the college, Ashley has fit in nicely at her position, and like Hartleb and Lamborghini is a pleasant interview and decent person.

Student life...

Apathetic. I don't think so. Sure, students may seem apathetic in general, but when there is something worth rallying around, students stick together. At a day-long protest, calling for then President Dimitry to pay the professors and end the contract hold-up, students joined with teachers in singing Christmas carols in the president's hallway.

Then came the sudden announcement of Gov. William Weld as the '96 commencement speaker. To the surprise of many, students again came together, protesting at Weld's home in Cambridge, politely trying to "disinvite" him from commencement.

Farewell, Northern Essex Community

Apathetic Students?

I don't think so...when there is something worth rallying around, students stick together. At a day-long protest, calling for then President Dimitry to pay their professors and end the contract hold-up, students joined with teachers in singing Christmas carols in the president's hallway.

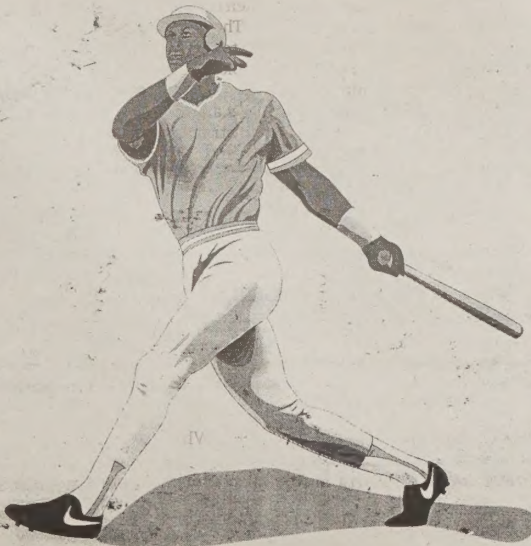
College...

Finally the day comes and the stage is lined with students receiving diplomas. After three years of public college education and a four-year span at a private school, I take the nickname "Harvard by the Kenoza" as a compliment.

Too many friends to name – they know who they are – will remain in my mind and heart forever. Thanks for the memories.

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Planning process moves on with core values report

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This information will then be compared to the core values.

According to Gene Wintner, chairman of the steering committee, this process, called a gap analysis, will show those involved in the planning process, what the college wants to do as compared to what it is currently able to do.

"It's a way of looking at the information where you can compare the institution's resources with the potential need," Wintner said.

Wintner said a planning priorities draft will be prepared at the same time the gap analysis is taking place. He said this will identify what the college's priorities are

according to the information gathered during the planning process. Wintner said a preliminary report is due in August.

With the gap analysis complete, the steering committee and facilitators will be able to use the fall to develop strategic options for NECC development.

"These will be the options for the school to consider as choices," he said.

Wintner said this will be first step when the fall semester begins.

Hartleb said the fall will be the most interesting time because it is when the decisions will start to be made.

Wintner said discussion will take place concerning the preliminary report and any shortcomings in resources or information

Gene Wintner



Facilitators will be able to use the fall to develop strategic options for NECC development.

"These will be the options for the school to consider as choices," Wintner said.

turned up by the gap analysis.

"With each step, you put something out there for people to react to," he said.

He also said he hoped to reach some sort of consensus with everyone who is involved

with the college as to what direction the college should take and what it should offer. "This will enable us to shape the suggestions of the facilitators into specific options for us to consider," Wintner said.

Vitamin donations to benefit Romanian children

◆ continued from page 1

to fall into place," Gustafson said. "It's miraculous, you just have to believe that there's a higher being making all of this to come together."

"The hardest thing about the missions, is that I must leave my wife, Ellie, behind.

She is very encouraging with her willingness and support."

Rachel Khehne, Gustafson's daughter, is equally supportive of Gustafson and his missions.

"It's a great thing for him to do. If he's happy doing it, he should continue to share."

Since 1990, REMM has made major contributions through their missions, providing the impoverished with food, clothing, training volunteers, spiritual help and Christian literature.

"I used to ask myself, 'why should I do

this,'" said Gustafson. "Now I ask, why shouldn't I?"

Donations of children's multivitamins with iron from NECC students and faculty would be greatly appreciated. All contributions are being received in Spurr 352 and 360.

Campus Beat

Lucent launches new program

By JUSTIN RADULSKI
Staff Reporter

The skills needed in today's high-technology manufacturing jobs have changed. The days of the cubicle and the assembly line are in the shadow of teamwork.

According to Sandy Roberts, director of NECC's center for business and industry, employers want to create an empowered work force.

"One in which workers have a broader sense and knowledge of business," President Hartleb said.

In February, Lucent Technologies launched a three year project to improve the skills of their workers. They've allocated \$3 million to develop and implement a community-college level curriculum. Their goal is to provide their workers with the skills necessary to survive in the 21st century.

NECC, along with six other colleges, the center for occupational research and development and the Lee Iacocca Institute are involved in this project.

Over the next three years NECC will receive \$70,000 for its work. According to Roberts, much of that money will go towards travel and expenses incurred through communication with the other participants.

CBI will pilot the curriculum at Lucent's plant in North Andover. Trainers will be sent into the plant to evaluate the curriculum. CORD will create and package the final curriculum based on the evaluations. Information will be placed on the Internet where businesses and management groups throughout the US can draw from the groups work, Roberts said.

The project's second goal is to create a "virtual college." All those involved will continue to find ways to train and educate all types of people.

"The input of people from very diverse backgrounds makes for a richer matrix of skills and teaching methods," Roberts said. "The end result could be quite powerful."

NECC's involvement is due, in part, to its relationship with Lucent Technologies, Hartleb said.

For over 20 years AT&T, which broke up in 1995, to form three separate companies, one of which is Lucent Technologies, sent its workers to train at NECC.

Another reason is NECC's involvement with the National Coalition of Advancement of Technology Centers. NCATC is a consortium of 92 two-year colleges that "help America's industry and work forces keep pace."

"NCATC deemed NECC to be on the leading edge of technology training and learning," Roberts said.

She feels the program will make graduates more marketable.

"Our students will be on the cutting edge of the skills the business world will require," Hartleb said.

"NECC tries to answer the needs of the community in many different ways," Roberts said. "This is an expression of what our college can do for our community that will have a nationwide impact. And achieving a national reputation is certainly nice."

Asian tour organized

By JUSTIN RADULSKI
Staff Reporter

NECC has an ongoing commitment to understand and celebrate the cultural diversity of its students. According to Tom Fallon, dean of information services, NECC's student body is composed of 82 percent White/non-Hispanic, 14 percent Hispanic, 2 percent Black/non-Hispanic and 2 percent Asian.

Judith Kamber, director of staff development and chair of the cultural diversity committee and Kathy Rodger, dean of the Lawrence campus, have found a way to help the staff of NECC better understand some of the populations the college serves. Kamber and Rodger have organized this year's Southeast Asian Tour.

According to Kamber, it's a way for the staff of NECC to become more culturally aware by getting them out of the conference room and into the streets.

"It's an effort to broaden our understanding of other cultures, to see how people live, eat, and how they relate to their families and education," Kamber said.

The full day tour will make stops at various sites throughout Lawrence's Southeast Asian community.

The first stop is the Hancock Projects' Habitat Houses. This community organization is helping house the Southeast Asian population of Lawrence. Volunteers build houses for people of Southeast Asian descent. When the home is completed, the new owners take part in building another house.

The group will then visit the Elizabeth Seton Asian Project hosted by Sister Helen O'Leary. This organization was founded by a group of nuns. They help resettle Vietnamese and Cambodian people. The nuns provide that population with a school that teaches English. They've also set up community activities and programs related to other areas of the immigrants lives.

The group will meet at a Vietnamese restaurant for lunch. Lunch will be followed by an afternoon of lectures at the United Way in Lawrence.

One of the speakers, Canh Tran, is a former NECC student. Tran is one of the original Vietnamese boat people that fled from that country in the '70s. After graduating from NECC, Tran went on to receive two separate masters' degrees. He was a consultant on this project who gave advice and helped organize this tour.

In the past two years Kamber organized six Lawrence Latin Tours. Groups of 20-25 staff, faculty and administrators visited businesses that served or are owned by the Latin population of Lawrence. According to Kamber those events were successful.

Robert McDonald, dean of academic services, was a guest on one of the Latin Tours.

According to McDonald the tour was valuable and worthwhile.

"It introduced us to a culture that we are beginning to serve more and more," he said. "It helped us to better understand where that culture is coming from. It also tells that population that our college wants to meet them halfway. We want to work with them and learn from them."

Currently, the tours are only open to NECC's staff, faculty and administration. Kamber and McDonald agree that this type of event would be great for NECC students. However, such a program would be difficult to implement.

The tour is limited to groups of 20-25 people. According to Kamber, larger groups or more frequent visits might disrupt the activities at the various sites. Plus, it's difficult to accommodate more than 30 people at the restaurants that host the luncheons, she said.

Teaching symposium set for May 20

By JUSTIN RADULSKI
Staff Reporter

Our country's educational system is evolving. Distance learning is a new teaching method that some colleges have adopted. It's a way for higher education to keep pace in today's technology-based society.

Telecourses are a form of distance learning. Professors assign weekly television broadcasts in place of lectures. Students tune in at home and meet two to three times during the semester to discuss what they view.

NECC offers its students a chance to take part in this type of learning. According to Dean of Academic Services, Robert McDonald, it's also a way for the college to draw in a population that isn't able to get to NECC on a regular basis.

"Distance learning is part of the expansion of education. It won't replace our existing practices, but it will be an addition," McDonald said.

To keep abreast of the changes, Judith Kamber, director of the office of staff development, in conjunction with the office of academic services, have organized a symposium where teachers can discuss distance learning and other new teaching methodologies.

According to Kamber, the teaching and learning symposium offers professors a chance to gather and explore new ideas.

"It's a place for teachers, who are involved in new teaching approaches, to discuss the pro's and con's of those methods,"

McDonald said.

This year six NECC faculty members are invited to speak. Paula Boxer, department of English, John Mason, department chair of natural sciences, Linda Kraus, professor, department of English, Michael Kolitila, associate professor, biotechnology coordinator and staff assistant, department of natural sciences, Gerald Morin, professor, department of history and government, and Stefanie Patz, part-time faculty, humanities and communications, will give presentations on projects important to them, according to Kamber.

Three of the presenters, Boxer, Mason and Morin, are winners of this year's National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development excellence in teaching awards.

According to McDonald those teachers were nominated for their exploration of alternative teaching methods. And, they were recognized for their help in offering telecourses. NECC has been involved with the NISOD awards for about five years.

"It's a way for the college to highlight, over the course of time, individuals who have been involved in new teaching approaches and methodologies," McDonald said.

This is the second year that NECC has offered the teaching and learning symposium.

One of the topics of last year's symposium was team teaching.

"The Teaching and Learning Symposium's focus is to highlight the good things that are happening on campus in terms of development," said McDonald.

NECC staff members are invited to attend this year's symposium on Tuesday, May 20 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m..

Crime briefs

April 11

Student having seizure: 4:30 p.m., Pam Madore and Susan Fritz, who work at Essex County Travel in C-202, said a student in the office fell to the floor and suffered a seizure. The student was transported to Hale Hospital by ambulance.

April 14

Stolen license plates: 10 a.m., Campus security said they found a car in lot #4 had rolled out of its parking space. State Police told security the license plates on the car were stolen.

April 16

Car break-in: 4:45 p.m., Campus security said they found a car in lot #2 running with no one in it. The ignition of the car was damaged.

Stoler car: 5 p.m., Sidney Pietzch, counselor, special services for deaf and hard of hearing people, said her Jeep was stolen from lot #2 sometime between 2 and 5 p.m.

Compiled from NECC security reports

Stillpoint performance a success

◆ Dancers light up campus in spring show

By CARLY BEDROSIAN
Staff Reporter

For two hours Stillpoint students danced their hearts out with graceful moves and smiling faces.

Recently, the dancers performed under several hot lights in the Sports and Fitness Center.

Review

The performance was beautiful to watch, as every dance was wonderful in its own way.

With a wide variety of music ranging from "Rage Against the Machine" to Bryan Adams, the dancers choreographed everything complete to the exact beat.

Choreography by Adrienne Mincz included "Wind," a modern jazz piece set to Ashley MacLissac's fiddle music and two other pieces by Rusted Root.

The dances containing a large cast were synchronized well.

Solos, one performed and choreographed by Elaine Mawhinney and the other by Jacqui Young were done to soft music with strong use of eye contact. Young's new number "Station" was set to music by Melissa Etheridge.

The duet, performed by students David Bibeau and Rachel Harrison was performed to "Let it Be" by White Zombie. The moves were fast and involved, and this dance was one of the most impressive of the evening.

The costumes, lighting, and props were great used to great advantage. All were appropriate and made the show more appealing.



Stillpoint performance

STUDENT DANCERS and their instructors, Elaine Mawhinney and Jacqui Young, dance a combination of numbers in the gym recently, including a student choreographed number called "Let It Be."

K. Pickard photo

Science professor retires after 35 years

◆ Bob Paul to continue to teach, work with computers, travel

By CAMILLE DUCEY
Staff Reporter

Science professor Bob Paul will retire in August after more than 35 years teaching. He spent 18 years as chairman of the department of natural sciences.

Paul's definition of retirement differs however, from the laid-back, snooze-in-the-hammock image of some retirees. He will be teaching meteorology this summer and is already scheduled to teach an evening computer class for the DCE in the fall, in addition to other activities.

"For me, correcting papers for a class of 18 as opposed to three sections of a science

class will be retirement," Paul said. "Homework used to take me up to two hours a night."

He is also buying a new computer for his home where he plans to sit down to "do his thing."

"I'm a computer freak," he said.

While most of his teaching years have been centered on meteorology, Paul's curriculum has spanned a variety of subjects including macro and micro economics, geography, geology and basic computer programming.

He also developed and taught a photography class and was adviser to the photography club for 19 years while holding a position as an official judge for various photography contests.

"I like to change my curriculum about every 15 years," he said. "I loved teaching geology and was always interested in photography."

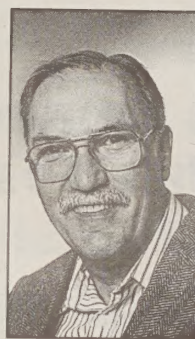
He also took advantage of the opportunity to further his studies at seven different teaching sessions offered by the Natural Science Foundation, held in various cities throughout the nation.

"My applications were always accepted," he said, as he counted the seven certificates of completion.

But Paul says that one of his greatest achievements was the book he wrote, "Exercise in Meteorology," a textbook and lab manual that has been adopted by more than 70 universities throughout the United States including the University of Michigan, State University of New York, California and St. Louis University, to name a few.

"I'm really thrilled and proud about that," he said.

Throughout his teaching career, Paul has seen a variety of student abilities and said there are a lot of good students at NECC.



Leaving

File photo
BOB PAUL, science department.

"I've enjoyed teaching here. If I didn't I wouldn't have stayed this long," he said. "The college has been good to me. I've had a lot of fun here and made good friends."

There's a diversity in the combined sciences, and it is somewhat unique in that everyone gets along and enjoys working together."

He said that he and two colleagues spent a summer together salmon fishing in the Yellowstone River in Montana.

"We always had fun and would play practical jokes on each other," he said.

He said they would often have lunch together in the small study area outside their offices. One day he found a thumb in his bowl of soup.

"I still have it," he said, as he reached into a drawer and pulled out a realistic looking rubber thumb.

"There was a book representative there at the time who just walked out and was never heard from again," he said chuckling.

Retirement will give Paul more time to spend at his wilderness camp in the mountains of western Maine, about 30 miles from the Canadian border where he enjoys salmon fishing and spotting moose. He said he has always spent weekends up there beginning in May, where his wife, Phyllis, sometimes joins him.

The couple also plan to travel to England to visit their daughter's in-laws and to entertain English friends here at home.

Editor's note:
Watch for more retirement profiles in our first issue next semester.

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Where's my name?

RESPIRATORY THERAPY students Ruth McKeon of Haverhill, and Karen Pelczar of Lawrence consider purchasing one of the 1997 NECC Commencement shirts.

G. Scione photo

Awards Convocation highlights best, brightest

◆ Some lucky students will receive recognition for their achievements

By MATT SHIRLEY
Staff Reporter

Every year, both faculty and students at NECC look forward to the awards convocation. This year is certainly no different.

Between 250-300 students are expected to be honored for their academic and co-curricular achievements in the one-and-a-half hour ceremony.

The criteria for an award is demanding. To qualify for an academic award one must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5, and have earned 45 credits as of Jan. 31, 1997 for an associate degree, or half of the required credits for a certificate program.

In addition, one must have had a petition for graduation in June 1997 accepted, or have already graduated in August 1996 or January 1997. Those who meet these high standards will be rewarded with an attractive high honors certificate.

In addition, one student from each program will receive an excellence award. The award, said convocation committee member Sandra Lambert, "Is presented to someone who stands out above the rest. Someone who reaches out to help other students."

Mary Prunty

"We want to make students feel good about their accomplishments"

Co-curricular awards will be presented to students who have cumulative GPAs of 2.0 at the end of the previous semester, have petitioned for graduation for June of the current semester, and have accrued 45 credits towards a degree or half the required credits for a certificate program.

These awards honor excellence and leadership within a club or activity. Convocation Committee Chairwoman, Mary Prunty, is convinced of the importance of the awards.

"Co-curricular and life experiences are important because students here are part of a community," she said.

Awards for cooperative education will also be presented. The recipients will be the students who meet all of the criteria for academic awards, but who also have successfully completed a co-op course prior to Jan. 1, 1997.

In addition to the academic, co-curricular, and co-op awards, a number of special awards will be presented. The special awards will go to students who do not meet the criteria for the other awards, but who have contributed to NECC or other students in some extraordinary way.

This year the Awards Convocation will be held on May 22, in the student center at 7 p.m. The entire ceremony will be interpreted for the hearing impaired by professional interpreters and the graduating sign language class. Following the ceremony there will be a reception in the Bentley library for the honorees, their families, friends and faculty.

Students who will be receiving awards will receive their invitations sometime during the first week of May. If students feel that they meet the requirements for an award, but do not receive invitations they should contact the academic services office.

"We don't want to overlook anyone. We want to make students feel good about their accomplishments and honor them in a public way," said Prunty.

Commencement

◆ A time to celebrate and be rewarded for a job well done

By BREEDA WHITMORE
Contributing Editor

Students, family, friends and faculty will gather in the quadrangle next to the sports and fitness center to celebrate NECC's 35th commencement exercises on Saturday, May 31 at 3 p.m.

Of the 700 students who will graduate this year, many will be students who completed their degree or certificate requirements during the summer and fall of '96.

Students are eligible to graduate only if they have an overall grade average of 2.0, and have fulfilled all academic and program requirements on or before May 31. Grades for the spring semester will be processed by May 23 and final evaluations of graduation applications will take place on May 28.

Retired faculty member, Eugene Connolly, will speak at the commencement. He taught Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communications at NECC and has taken part in other commencement ceremonies throughout the years. He was also chairman of the English department from 1970 to 1975.

Two student speakers are also expected to

address the crowd to share their feeling about the college, and how it made a difference in their lives. The commencement committee is still searching for these motivational students and according to Joyce Ortiz, chair of the commencement committee, the process for choosing these students is informal.

"We get suggestions from faculty and alumni," Ortiz said. "These suggestions are based on the students' activities within the college and how much the college has meant to the students. They need to be able to express their views in front of people. The people usually are successful grade-wise."

In the end, though, the final decision made by President David Hartleb with input from Vice President Mary Ellen Ashley.

This is Ortiz's first year working on the commencement committee which she chairs with Mary Prunty, associate dean of academic services.

"The president suggested I co-chair and was happy about that," she said. "I have enjoyed doing it very much, but I never realized how much work is involved."

With their black caps and gowns, students will sit according to their programs. NECC does not separate honors and high honors students from the rest of the class, but a special recognition will be mentioned where names are called.

Prunty, who has organized commencement for the last 15 years, said it is a wonder

Congratulations, Class of 1997

A
Ruddy Abreu, Carrie J. Ahearn, Stephen J. Aldonis, Jr., Keith W. Alfeiri, Walter R. Alder, Walter R. Alder, Gertrude M. Allen, Jasmine Allende, Bernardino A. Almonte, Theresa J. Almquist, Lludi E. Alvarez, Lori T. Amico, Audra A. Anderson, Richard M. Anderson, Stephen F. Apperti, Donna M. Arasi-Gudinas, Sharon F. Arcand, Susan M. Ariza, Paula Arruda, Elizabeth M. Arsenaault, Stephen C. Artemis, Kristen L. Asaro, Lou Anne J. Auricchio, James M. Axford

B
Elizabeth A. Ballas, Julie Ann M. Balogh, Therese Bamford, Bethany I. Bancroft, Mary B. Banks, Jean M. Barry, Mary E. Bartzak, Kari J. Bateman, Susan Baumert, Jane M. Bazzinotti, Ann L. Beals, Ana D. Beaudet, Peter K. Bedford, Suzanne Beier, Claire R. Belanger, Lynne C. Bell, Stephanie A. Belmer, Candace M. Benson, Evelyn A. Benson, Tracy L. Berling, Joshua D. Bernard, Michael S. Bernhard, Sandra A. Berube, Annette M. Bilo, Edward W. Bishop, Melissa A. Bishop, Jay A. Bistany, Matthew J. Bistany, Edward R. Blood, William C. Bluemel, Jacquelyn A. Boggiano, Bryan D. Bonfim, Karen M. Bonnevie, Daniel R. Borkush, John J. Boschetto, Susan R. Bouchard, Cathleen M. Bourouphael, Linda M. Bouthilliet, Cathleen M. Bowler, Stephen J. Boynton, Noelle A. Bradford, Danielle M. Bradley, Ann Brady-Lozier, Monica Branchina, Clayton D. Brannon, Linda L. Bronson, John K. Brouder, Gregory P. Brucato, Gail M. Brunault, Theresa M. Brunelle, Joseph W. Buck, Bernard M. Buckley, Marcia J. Bunnell, David R. Burke, Bonnie C. Burns, William J. Burns, Jr., Nathan P. Burridge, Steven O. Burroughs

C
Stephen H. Cahill, Denise A. Callahan, Hector Camacho, Joel Camargo, Christine M. Campbell, Heather A. Campbell, Patricia A. Cantone, Carene Capoccia, Richard M. Caponigro, Channon C. Capra, David P. Carelli, Patricia I. Carey-McBride, Maureen A. Carr, Michael D. Carreiro, Marilyn Carrepp, Daniel Carrillo, Daniel R. Carter, Marcia A. Carter, Gerardo Casal, Cheryl L. Casey, Kristen N. Cassidy, Esperanza A. Castillo, Theresa E. Caswell, Bruce M. Cataldi, Anthony F. Catauro, Chris M. Cavanaugh, Lisa A. Cerullo, Nancy D. Chamorro, Tin Chan, Ellen T. Cheverie, Camilla Chouinard, Karen L. Christie, David C. Christmas, Chantal M. Chunilal, Stephanie A. Cinelli, Antoinette M. Clark, Carlene A. Clark, Robert M. Cloutier, Christine M. Cochran, Dana C. Cole, Christopher J. Collins, Ilia I. Colon, Susan L. Comeau, Shawn P. Connell, Matthew T. Connery, Matthew P. Connor, Barbara M. Connors, Kathleen E. Conroy, Joseph A. Consentino, Stephanie L. Constantine, Timothy A. Cook, Amy J. Cornellier, Lynndiane M. Costa, Michelle M. Cote, Thomas G. Courtney, Jr., Patricia A. Couture, John E. Cox, Pamela A. Cox, Theresa A. Craig, Roserim Crepeau, Jamie M. Crespo, Brian G. Cressy, Gemma E. Croft, Diane M. Croteau, Alberto G. Cruz, David Cruz, Yohanni E. Cuevas, Jeffrey E. Curran, James S. Currier, Mary E. Curtis

D
Eric T. D'Antonio, Debra A. Danahy, Susan M. Dancause, Lisa M. Davinci, Randy D. Davis, Heidi E.

Dawe, Neal De Leon, Linda J. DeAlmeida, Sherri DeBlois, Michelle F. Deforge, Regina M. DeFreita, Michael B. Delaney, Patrick M. Delaney, Jeffrey Delle Chiaie, Mark W. Delle Chiaie, Deana DelTorchio, Francine M. Demers, Lori A. DeMi, Andrew J. Denoncour, Gina DePiano, Dina DeRepentigny, Robert H. Descheneau, Terrence Descoteaux, Rose R. Desimone, Maureen Desrosiers, Katherine M. Deveau, Tammy M. DeVit, Itea R. Diamantopoulos, Itea R. Diamantopoulos, Stacie I. Dion, Beth E. Dixon-Stoddard, Karen Dodier, Patricia I. Donahue, Maryann R. Donoho, Michael J. Donohue, Christopher C. Donovan, Shelle A. Doughty, Alexander B. Douglass, Barbara F. Drelic, Margaret A. Driscoll, Richard P. Driscoll, Suzanne Driscoll, Michele J. Dryver, Julien Dube, Louise Duff, Jennifer A. Duff, Sandra J. Dufour, Naomi G. Dufresne, Sean M. Dugan, Melissa E. Duggan, Maureen Dunbar-Colpitts, Patricia M. Duncan, Sandra L. Dun, Teresa M. Dylingsowski

E
Chad P. Eaton, Donna Eftim, William F. Ellis, Jean Endyke, Priscilla R. Epstein, Debra J. Fanaras, Jason Faria, Jamie C. Farmer, Colleen Farrell, Farrah Fassio, Maria E. Fernandez, Pamela R. Fields, Michal J. Fini, Daniel G. Finer, Charles J. Finochiaro, Paul J. Firriello, Robert G. Fishwick, Cheryl A. Fitzpatrick, Honour E. Fitzpatrick, Janice L. Fleming, Kathleen Fluet, John T. Flynn, Stacey M. Foley, Kevin M. Foster, John J. Fountain, Caleb I. Fowle, Sophia Francis, Kathleen L. Frank, Sierra L. Frank, Fred W. Fraser, Arthur D. Fraughton, Helen I. Fulk

G
Michelle Gaetano, Lisa M. Gagne, Kathryn M. Gagnon, Kathryn M. Gagnon, Lucy A. Gagnon, Kelly A. Gallagher, John K. Ganley, Dery J. Garcia, John R. Garratt, Laura C. Gauron, Joan M. Gauthier, Dennis W. Gauvin, Cathy Genao, Dionisio A. Genao, Diana E. George, Danielle Y. Gervais, Robert J. Gibeau, Julie A. Gilligan, Mary Ellen Gioia, Janet M. Girouard, Scott J. Glee, Ruth Ann Goad, Cheryl L. Gogus, Gladys G. Gomez, Zola M. Gomez, Regina A. Gooding, Eric J. Gossell, Lori L. Goudreault, Christine L. Gould, Jennifer Goulet, Kimberley A. Govoni, Lynn J. Grady, Troy R. Grandmaison, Andrea J. Grant, Joy M. Grassi, Deborah E. Gray, Denise M. Gray, Janice M. Gray, Laura L. Green, Shaun M. Green, Stacey E. Greene, Karen Greenfield, Ellen R. Greenwood, Felix S. Gregorian, Felix S. Gregorian, Jan K. Gregorio, Philip J. Grillo, Donna L. Griswold, Jason B. Grosky, Christine R. Grover, Ayla Gunsever, Joanne Gustafson, Love M. Gutierrez, Eric E. Gynan, Joel C. Gynan

H
Christine M. Hadley, Susan V. Haggerty, Catherine Hale, Jennifer P. Hall, Barry W. Halloran, Ilia M. Halverson, Kimberly E. Hamilton, Jerry D. Hand, Jr., Tara Hanrahan, Lorrain A. Hargreaves, Deborah Harper, Michael J. Harrington, Karen E. Harris, Joss I. Harrison, Brenda J. Heafey, Patricia G. Hesselbach, Monica M. Hicks, Gregory S. Higginbotham, Rachel A. Hill, Judith A. Hills, Matthew R. Hodges, John A. Hoffmeier, Dennis P. Hogan, Thaddeus Hogan

Commencement '97

ful day of celebration and joy.

"Each time I go I see something new and different," she said. "Commencement for community college students is a large event in their lives. Many are first generation college grads and through their achievements they become role models for their families, friends and their communities."

She said she has seen 80-year-old graduates, mother/daughter and father/son combinations and people who are hearing impaired or in wheelchairs all take part in the special event.

"It shows we are accommodating, and our doors are open to all the residents of the Merrimack Valley," she said. "We make it a very special day because we feel something special has happened."

A student achieves high honors status with a 3.5 or higher QPA. Honors status is given to students who attain a 3.0 to 3.49 QPA.

Student Senate President, Kelly Ryan, will present the '97 class gift to the school. According to Tou Yang, vice president of the senate, this year's gift will be a bulletin board for the Dimitry campus in Lawrence.

Three invitations will be given to each graduating student. If ceremonies are held outside, there are no limits on the number of guests that can be invited.

However, if it rains the ceremony will take place in the sports and fitness center and guests will be limited to three per graduate.

Class of '97

Ralph E Holder, Michelle M Howard, Jennifer R Howes, Dorothy A Hudson, Linda J Hudson, Robert (Bao) Q Huynh

I-J

Craig S Iannotti, Kathy J Jackman, Jamie M Jackson, Jennifer A Jacques, Joan R James, Sheryl James, Cherry A Jason, Donna E Johnson, Lois A Johnston, David M Jones, Peggy T Jones, Mary Joyce, Michelle E Joyce, Paul D Kady, Jr., Elissa M Karampatos, Joanne M Kaslow, Jason J Kawa, Carla L Keefe, Daniel M Kelley, Lauren B Kibildis, Sharon L Klufits, Sheila A Koehler, Jason A Kohan, Kristin P Korowski, Jamie L Krakauskas, Kevin J Kyle, Connie I Kyriakopoulos

K

Stacy A LaBarre, Mark R Lacerte, Sherry L LaFlamme, Kathleen A Lambert, Eleni Lambropoulos, Todd D Lamond, Michelle A Landry, Debbie S Lang, Eric S LaPointe, Kim M Laquidara, Diana L Larkin, Wendy A LaRochelle, Jason K LaRocque, Zacharias Latsios, Laura M Laubner, Amy J Lawson, Christopher J Leary, Rawley A Lebro, Patrick G LeClerc, Debra Lee, Norman A Lee, Patricia M Leighton, Rebecca E Leighton, Paula A Lembo, Sirena S Lemieux, Sandra A Letourneau, Norman Letourneau, Jr., Christine Levesque, Vicky S Levesque, Leslie L Levins, Lorraine Leveault, Donald L Linn, Linda M Linzetto, James E Lister, Peter J Livernois, Erin M Livingston, Cecelia M Loch, Joseph Lodise, MaryEllen Lopez, Barbara A Lord, Leslie J Lowe, Tara L Luce

M

Deborah Maas, Mark O MacGill, Donna D MacNeill, Michael P Maggio, Jay A Maguire, Kathleen M Maguire, David T Majeski, Elvin Maldonado, Erik F Maramaldi, Paula M Margosian, Jerilyn R Marro, Amy S Martin, Lisa A Martin, Shirley Martin, Elizabeth Martinez, Elin M Mastrangelo, Laurent R Mathieu, Dorothy E Mattheson, April L McArthur, Shawn M McCabe, Maribeth A McCall, Michael J McCarthy, Lisa J McClafferty, Jennifer M McClintock, Uma T McDonald, Laura M McDonough, Amanda J McGibbon, Nancy E McGovern, Sean P McGuire, James McInnes, Pamela J McIntire, Ruth N McKeon, Judith A McLaughlin, Dianne M McMahon, John H McNally, Patricia A McNamara, Melissa J McQueen, Meghan T Mealey, William A Mears, Carolyn R Medeiros, Kathleen R Medige, Kevin R Medvecky, George M Mejia, Scott A Melanson, Judy Menasian, Dawn E Merrill, Julie A Messenger, Kimberly A Metthe, Grace A Meyer, Karry L Mical, James S Michaud, Sandy L Michaud, Shellene F Miele, Mary Miller, Emilie W Miller-Vickers, Margarita L Milot, Virginia Misch, Kathleen J Mock, Karen M Molvar, Steven A Mondazzi, Judy A Mooney, Hitomi M Morales, Ysabel M Morales, Michelle A Morello, Florin D Morgan, Sherry R Morgardo, Douglas J Iorin, Mary E Morris, April A Morrissey, Melissa C Mosko, Krzysztof W Mroczko, Diane L Muise, Mary Mullin, Dianna Murch, James Murphy, Karen M Murphy, Kathleen A Murray

N-O

Angela Nalbandian, Cheryl A Nelson, Lori A Nelson, Paul C Newell, Long V Nguyen, Frederick T Nickerson, Lyssa M Noce, Michelle M Noel, WT Nolan, Joanne

Senator makes a difference

◆ Student represents Hispanic students, hopes others will follow her example

By YESENIA A. GIL
Staff Reporter

Limited participation from Latino students at NECC motivated Yohanni Cuevas to run for student senate.

Cuevas, treasurer for the student senate, went around to all of her business classes to get the 23 signatures needed to get into the student senate. Once she had accomplished that, she knew nothing could get in her way.

Now that she had a foot in the door, she believed that other Latino students would follow in her footsteps and get involved around campus. This feat proved to be her hardest challenge.

She is eager to reach Latino students. But no one is knocking on her door. This is a disturbing realization for Cuevas, who believes in leadership by example.

"I feel the Hispanic students are not involved as much as they should be," she said.

After considerable thought, she concluded that lack of advertising was a possible reason for the scant participation from Latino students.

However, she admits that she often reads the information posted at the bulletin boards around campus, but backs up her statement by saying that she was not aware of any scholarships until her second year at NECC.

She also thinks that many Hispanics are coming from local high schools that have a bilingual program. These students, she believes, are segregated in the bilingual program and are not being taught enough English. They then go home to a predominately Latino neighborhood where Spanish is spoken.

When they come to NECC, they are not



Congrats

File photo
YOHANNI CUEVAS

able to integrate into regular courses, but must take ESL courses, making the process of communication prolonged and difficult.

She cites the Hispanic Cultural Club as an example. The club is practically nonexistent and has poor leadership. She says that if each Latino student at NECC contributes a little, a great deal can be accomplished. This principle is not only to stress the significance of the Hispanic Cultural Club, but in general, "set your goals and go for it," she said. "Every obstacle should motivate you more."

She is willing to help any student who is interested in establishing a club. Take the opportunities the school has to offer, she said.

After she graduates, she hopes to have someone follow in her footsteps - to represent Latino students.

Cuevas does not fault all of the Latino students, but said that the school should get a little more involved in promoting Latino culture, as it does for the Asian culture when they celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Nonetheless, she is happy that the student senate is culturally diversified this semester, and looks forward to transferring to a four-year college next fall.

M Northover, Jacqueline Nunez, Melissa L O'Brien, Patrick J O'Connor, Michael E O'Hare, Amy Beth O'Keefe, Siobhan O'Riordan, Treasa O'Riordan, Deborah J O'Rourke, Judi A Olson, Luz M Otero, Jeannie Ouellet, David P Overka, Wayne M Owens, Delia M Pacheco, Laurie L Padre, Tim S Page, Chad M Palermo, Susan A Paolino, Michael J Pappalardo, Kerry R Paquette, Peggy A Parah, Kim T Parisien, Donna E Parker, Robert S Parks, Steven A Paro, Christina A Parolisi, Joanne Pasquale, Janice M Patti, Susan R Paul, Janice L Paulsen, Janice M Pearl, David J Pearson, Karen Pelczar, Carolyn A Pelletier, Janet Pelletier, Mariela L Pelletier, Thomas G Pelsue, James A Pepe, Linda M Perdy, Bibiana Perez, Luz M Perez, Helyn B Perkins, Marie A Perkins, Timothy A Perkins, Laurie A Perry, Dennis A Perusse, Brien A Peters, Lyn Peterson-Fiske, Dawn M Philbrook, Therese Pickard, Angeliq J Pinet, Marcella D Pino, Richard P Pisano, Kathy M Pitocchelli, Kimberly K Plaster, Timothy J Plouff, Marianne R Poirier, Nancy E Poirier, Nadiuska A Polanco, Allyson S Polizzotti, Salvatore J Polizzotti, Rebecca M Pope, James G Powell, James E Powers, Yvette Powers, April A Pozzi, George H Pratt, Suzanne N Proulx, Michael S Puffer

Q-R

John S Quevillon, M Annette Quimby, Demetra A Raftell, Mujib U Rahman, Daniel R Rajczyk, Natalie M Ramos, Anna R Randall, Karen R Ratcliffe, Jeffrey F Reddy, Bethany L Reval, Susan T Reynolds, Susan T Reynolds, Edward Reynoso, Heather A Rice, Jennifer L Rich, Karen A Richard, Nicole C Richards, Mary C Richardson, Christine E Richenburg, Seretha J Risacher, Susan M Ritter, Alba V Rivera, Eva P Robenek, Richard L Roberts, Thomas M Roberts, Derek S Robinson, Jennifer L Robinson, Sandra J Rochon, Effica A Rock, Edwin Rodriguez, Joan G Rogers, Joseph R Rogers, Michelle C Roli, Melissa A Romano, Hfta I Ross, Stacy F Ross, Cheri A Rouleau, Jaime E Rourke, Charlene M Roussel, Aaron E Rumack, Danielle X Russano, Shirley A Rutherford, Kelly M Ryan

S

Maria Sabau, Margaret A Sainsbury, Sherry L Sampson, Nahir Y Sanabria, Pedro L Sanchez, Evelyn R Sandoval-Lima, Flor Santana, Tina M Santarelli, Michael A Santoro, Ana M Santos, Karen E Sarfde, Rebecca J Sargent, Rebecca J Sargent, Janet L Saulnier, Karen M Savastano, Lynette M Sbrano, Patricia A Scanlon, Dayton H Schlosser, Evelyn M Schreiber, Anneliese E Schumm, George R Scione, Lisa A Sears, Melissa A Shahinian, Jennifer Shattuck, Jason A Shaw, Michelle L Shaw, Heather A Sheldon, John H Shirling, Joyce M Shilton, Lori A Silva, Helena Silveira, Maria E Silverio, Susan Simmons, Donna M Simpson, Sarah B Slaughter, Cathleen M Smith, Christine B Smith, Joseph R Smith, Joseph D Souza III, Nancy J Spaulding, Laurie A Spheekas, Susan M Strandring, Jennifer J Stearns, Susan M Stehfest, Patricia A Stella, Kurt J Stephan, Kenneth A Sternberg, Jami R Stevens, Jeremy T Stevens, James E Stewart, Jr., Sharon K Stimson, David A Stoddard, Ida M Strykowski, Derek S Sudbay, Cheryl A Sullivan, Susan M Sullivan, Evon A Svenson, Evon A Svenson, Farolyn J Swanberry, Diane M Sweeney, Lisa J

Sweeney, Maria A Sweeney, Mary Ann Swochak, Virginia A Syvinski

T-U-V

Julie M Taborne, Stacey T Tarpy, Raymond D Taylor, Lori J Terminiello, Richard G Testa, Anita J Thomas, Joyce E Thomas, Maureen P Thomas, Sandra L Thompson, Beverly A Thorn, Kelley A Tiani, Colin J Tierney, Aaron W Tilton, Ernestine A Toe, Chung T Tong, Carlene J Torosian, Elaine M Treado, Sonya C Treadwell, James A Trefethen, William G Trefethen, Elizabeth O Trezise, Jennifer E Trull, Stacy STwersky, Robert J Uliano, Heyda Urena, Rosita Urena, Damaris N Valera, Juana E Vargas, Daniel B Vasconcelos, Jessica L Ventullo, John C Verrette, Jennifer A Vincent,

Janet E Vitale, Loan T Vu, Thao T Vu, Thuyet Q Vu W-X-Y-Z

Jennifer C Walsh, Jeffrey R Wardle, Jalal S Wassouf, Marianella C Watanabe, Jeremy D Watkins, Melissa A Watts, Keith D Weightman, Lauren A Weiner, Dolores A Welch, Sherry A Whitaker, Heather J White, Katherine M White, Brandi T Whitman, Breeda M Whitmore, Shelly A Whitney, Judy A Wholley, Mary E Wilkie, Arlene M Wilkinson, Julie A Williams, Mark T Wilson, Gretchen Windisch, Julie A Winward, Carol A Wolfendale, Karen A Wood, William J Woodhouse, Jennifer R Wozmak, Bonnie J Wright, Jason C Wright, Cristino Ynfante, Ryan S Zannini, Louis I Zwirble

Connolly named as graduation speaker

By MATTHEW TROMBLY
Staff Reporter

NECC is honoring one of its finest in announcing that Eugene Connolly, a recently retired member of the faculty and former chair of the English department, will address the graduates at the 35th Commencement on Saturday, May 31.

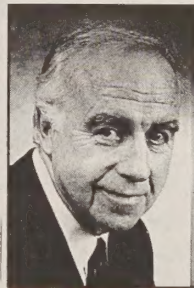
"Gene has earned the love of his students and the respect of his colleagues during his time at Northern Essex," said President David Hartleb in making the announcement. "How appropriate for our 'professor of speech' to address the graduates."

Connolly began teaching at NECC in 1966, after teaching high school students in New York and acting as the supervisor of management training and public relations at AT&T. Connolly has also had adjunct professorships at Merrimack College, Bradford College, UMass-Lowell, Salem State, Marian Court College and Fitchburg State.

Connolly now teaches Interpersonal Communications and Public Speaking, but his main focus is enjoying retirement.

"It gives me a lot of choices," said Connolly. "It opens up my week."

Connolly enjoys bicycling, boating, writing and reading. He also hopes to spend more time with family and friends during his retirement.



On May 31

File photo
EUGENE CONNOLLY will address the Class of '97.

Connolly can easily answer the question of what his favorite aspects of NECC were.

"I enjoyed my classes, my students, and my colleagues," said Connolly. "I like the people I worked with."

Connolly, who now lives in Danvers with his wife, Sally, has four grown children. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, earning his bachelor's degree in English. Connolly continues his education after that, earning his master's degree from St. John's University and his doctorate from Boston College in Higher Education.

"Can't forget them or they'll be mad," said Connolly of B.C.

Since it was only April 17 when he was told that he would speak at the graduation ceremony, Connolly is not sure what he will tell the graduates, but said he would prepare in the upcoming weeks. Is the venerable professor nervous about his assignment?

"No," Connolly said with an easy smile. "Not yet."

Connolly said that he is blessed to have been able to teach for a living, once saying that teaching nourishes him.

"I spent my lifetime doing something I enjoy doing," he said. "If it wasn't fun, it would be like work."

Reaching out, saving lives

◆ Samaritans' May 16 conference to raise awareness about suicide prevention

By MATTHEW TROMBLY
Staff Reporter

June Roberts admits she is from a "different era," but does not let that get in the way of trying to help a problem she labels as "disturbing" — suicide and teen suicide.

Roberts, who is in her mid-60s, is volunteer coordinator for the Samaritans of the Merrimack Valley, and currently gearing up for Reaching Out and Saving Lives, the Merrimack Valley Suicide Prevention Conference.

The event will be held Friday, May 16 at the Osgood Conference Center at the Stevens Estate in North Andover. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registrations for the event, which is limited to 200 participants, must be received by May 12. The registration fee is \$45.

Reaching Out is co-sponsored by Holy Family Hospital and Medical Center, Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley Inc., and NECC. The director of the Samaritans, which was formed in 1953 and is funded by the United Way and private donations, is Gregory Miller.

The Samaritans have been planning the May 16 conference for six months, targeting the date because May is suicide month. It will be the organization's second conference of this kind. In 1992, the Samaritans ran a peer leader conference at Bradford College.

"That was very successful," Roberts said.

The goals of Reaching Out are to provide greater awareness of suicide and depression to the people of the Merrimack Valley, as well as skills in recognizing depression and helping groups and individuals. Another goal is to provide knowledge of the high-risk groups, especially the youth, the elderly and the gay and lesbian community.

The Samaritans hope the conference will help them get to know other Merrimack Valley organizations, such as schools and churches, so the groups can all cooperate and share resources.

Roberts' individual story is quite a remarkable one. A nurse for 35 years, she worked for an alcoholism hotline, where she estimates she received 100 calls per day from people who wanted to end their lives.

"I heard a bit of everything everyday," Roberts said of the calls she took.

It turned out that one of Roberts' fellow employees at the hotline was a Samaritan, who convinced Roberts to give the group a try. Roberts did and never looked back.

"He took me one day and I was hooked," she said.

It seems that fate has always been on Roberts' side. In 1982, Roberts, then over 50 years old, took her youngest son, Bill, to register for classes at NECC. Before she knew it, she was talking to an adviser and registering for classes herself.

"It was just spur of the moment," Roberts said.

She studied journalism and commercial art at NECC, and worked on the Observer. All the while, she volunteered at the Samaritans.

A Methuen resident with a husband and four children, Roberts, who once worked at the Haverhill Gazette, is happy about the relationship between NECC and the Samaritans. In fact, NECC will play a much bigger role in the conference than co-spon-



NECC Leadership Award winner

G. Scione photo

CAROLYN M. MORTON, ESQ. is honored by the college for her dedication to NECC, Bradford College and Haverhill. Mayor James Rurak presents her with a citation from the city for her efforts.

sor.

Marie McDonald, supported education specialist at NECC, and NECC students Scott Weiker and Patricia Robinson, will speak at one of the workshops, discussing empathy for the mentally ill.

"I think it's hard to understand the mentally ill, unless you've actually been there," Roberts said.

Larry Bernstein, who works at the counseling center at NECC, will talk about college and risk factors for suicide.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Pamela Cantor, a developmental and clinical psychologist, and the internationally recognized authority on youth suicide. Dr. Cantor is the president of the National Committee on Youth Suicide Prevention and a member of the faculty at Harvard Medical School. Roberts had nothing but good words for Cantor.

"Her resume is five pages long," said Roberts. "I've heard Pamela speak and she's wonderful."

The Samaritans believe in steering towards the pain of a depressed or suicidal

person, and asking open-ended questions that deal with the depressed person's feelings.

The conference will place much focus on teen depression and suicide. Roberts points to recent tragedies in South Boston as reasons for concern, as well as statistics that say one of every 10 teens will attempt suicide.

"There's more peer pressure (in recent years)," said Roberts. "It's hard on kids."

In the fall, the Samaritans will start an organization focusing on youth, called Samariteens. The Samaritans also run a program called Journey of Hope, which is for survivors of suicide and families of the mentally ill.

A program will run Thursday from Sept. 4 through Nov. 20 in the president's dining room in the F Building at NECC. Other Journey of Hope programs have been well-attended, Roberts said.

To contact the Samaritans, call (508) 688-0030. Funds are available for students who want to attend the May 16 conference. Contact the counseling office for details.

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* All pages must be intact, limited marking, no writing in workbooks.



Haverhill Bookstore Hours

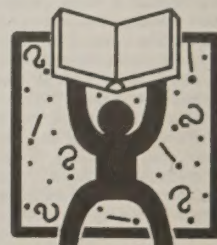
May 12 - 16 & 19, 9am to 5 pm

May 12 - 15, 5:30pm to 7pm*

*(Spurk Lobby)

Lawrence Bookstore Hours

May 12 - 16 & 19, 9am to 1 pm



New disabilities web site unveiled

◆ *Aims to assist faculty, staff in working with students*

By **MATTHEW TROMBLY**
Staff Reporter

Everybody at one time in their life has had an idea that just would not go away, even when they tried to forget about it. Roxanne Cirelli, learning disabled specialist, had an idea like that, too. She wanted a web page.

In January, Cirelli, with the help of her technical creator, Wynne Bascom, finally had her web page, dedicated to assisting post secondary education faculty and staff with teaching students with learning disabilities, placed online. It was the culmination of a lot of pondering, talking and working.

Cirelli originally got the idea for the web page, which can be

reached at NECC's e-mail address, www.necc.mass.edu, in June, while at a nation-wide conference for learning disabled education.

At the Newport, R.I. conference, Cirelli approached Jan Levenberger, director of the learning center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a nationally renowned figure in her field, with the idea of the web site.

"She loved it," said Cirelli. "She wanted to work on it together."

Cirelli was excited. But in September, Levenberger told Cirelli to go ahead without her. Cirelli, who has been at NECC since 1989 and has held her current position for the last year, admitted she was tempted to put the idea on the back burner, but said Levenberger's approval to go on without her drove her to work harder.

"To get her support like that encouraged me to go ahead," Cirelli said.

In October, Cirelli began working with Bascom, who taught himself how to use the computer, and had the page online in January. It

was not until mid-April, though, that Cirelli began to feel comfortable with the program. Now, she says, her main goal is to maintain it.

Cirelli received her bachelor's degree in psychology and a certificate in gerontology from the University of Utah. She earned her master's in rehabilitation counseling from Boston University, came to NECC as a counselor, and later as a coordinator, for students with disabilities after a stint at North Shore Community College, where she worked at the mental health technology program, as well as in human services.

The menu of links on the page includes the NECC Support Line, National Support Line, NECC LD staff development, LD resources on the Internet, Tip of the Month and a space currently reserved for expansion.

Cirelli hopes to get volunteers from the faculty to share suggestions with members of both the NECC faculty and members of fac-

ulties from schools around the country that have access to the web site. The faculty members who make suggestions will be placed on the Support Lines.

Cirelli said that the suggestions are general multisensory teaching or communication techniques, and are not based on a student's official LD documentation. Cirelli advises anyone who wants to make a suggestion to contact her or their campus LD specialist before making the suggestion.

"Everybody has their own style of learning," Cirelli said.

Cirelli hopes to use the space currently reserved for expansion for commonly asked questions. She also hopes to share articles, video tapes and books helpful in understanding teaching the learning disabled through the program.

In addition to maintaining the page and adding to the Support Lines, Cirelli hopes to spread the word of the site at the next learning disabled education conference, which will be held in June at Saratoga, N.Y.



Helping out

File photo
ROXANNE CIRELLI helps to create a new web page devoted to learning disabilities.

Anyone interested in viewing the web page can, by entering www.necc.mass.edu, then clicking on "Staff Development and Learning Disabilities."

Cirelli can be reached at (508) 374-37-5, and e-mailed at rcirelli@necc.mass.edu.

Lawrence fair stresses healthy habits for all

◆ *60 percent of children need care*

By **ROBIN NELSON**
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, May 4, a large crowd came out to attend a health fair open to the public at the Lawrence Common.

Several organizations from around the community came together to stress the importance of adopting safe, healthy habits for every member of the family.

Proper nutrition, regular doctor and dentist visits and an outline of the different birth control methods available, were just some of the take-home information offered.

Local entertainment performed

while individuals went from one station to another filling their goody-bags with brochures, fliers, posters and free gifts.

Games and pony rides were available for children while healthy snacks were free of charge for all.

The Health Van for Kids was open for a tour. It's a 37 foot vehicle that brings physical exams and dental screening to the 17 Lawrence elementary and

middle schools.

"We are able to identify which children need immediate care," Elaine Gould, Lawrence Health Project Coordinator, said, "and refer them to a continuing health care setting."

Sixty percent of the children screened needed the care of a doctor or dentist.

The Health Van is a program of the Massachusetts Caring for Chil-

dren Foundation that's been running for a year and a half. It is a nonprofit charitable organization that relies heavily on contributions.

The fair was sponsored by Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Lawrence General Hospital, Massachusetts Tobacco Control Programs and Lawrence Public School's USDA Team Nutrition Project.



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Shay Sullivan

'Con Air' looks like a summer hit

Temperatures are rising and clothes are dropping off quicker than 8 heads. At no other time of the year does the clock tick so loud as now. Finals stand in the way of our summer daze like a river of lava flowing through the streets of LA.

The desire to play hookey and go frolic under the sun has teachers calling students "liar liar" and sitting in class has become as pleasurable as watching the "English Patient."

The point (blank) is it can only mean one thing: summer. With that summer comes barbecues, beaches and bikinis, and, oh yes, a yuck of multi-million dollar excuses to lament at your local cineplex.

So, what will the big bang be? Years past that question could have been easily answered by looking to the biggest budget, "Terminator 2," "Jurassic Park" and the like were all major investments with big buck advertising schemes. Safe bets.

But this summer the theatre is a veritable smorgasbord of choices, and the betting odds move up to lottery proportions.

First up is "Con Air." First, because of all the choices, this one looks to be the only sure shot. Nicholas Cage, Ving Rhames, Jon Malkovitch, John Cusak, and Steve Buscemi on a plane with a lot of guns. Need I say more?

A close runner up will be "Star Troopers." This film looks good, feels good and has a plot of epic proportions. On the heels of "Independence Day's" success, this one may dominate with the help of newly created Sci-Fi fans.

Half of the broken arrow will be taking aim this summer in Jon Woo's "Face Off." John Travolta and Nicholas Cage star in this computerized thriller.

King of summer's past, Arnold Schwarzenegger, will once again try to muscle in on the competition. He stars as Mr. Freeze in "Batman 4." George Clooney, Chris (yuck) O'Donnell co-star in his shadow.

They've got an interesting idea with these films and an amazing knack for scoring huge names for the lead roles, but if they don't call it quits after four, it's going to get old. The cream of the crop list ends with a return to the "Jurassic: Lost World." More of the same, only this time it will be louder.

Mouths are watering by now, I'm sure. Yet the list goes on. It will be a long summer indeed and a well-deserved one at that.

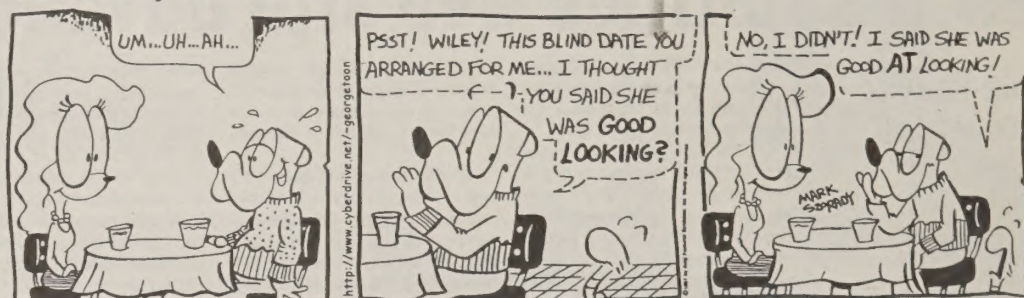
Have a great summer everyone. May your tans never peel and may all of your F's stand for fantastic!



Big hit?

File photo
NICHOLAS CAGE stars in summer action thriller, "Con Air."

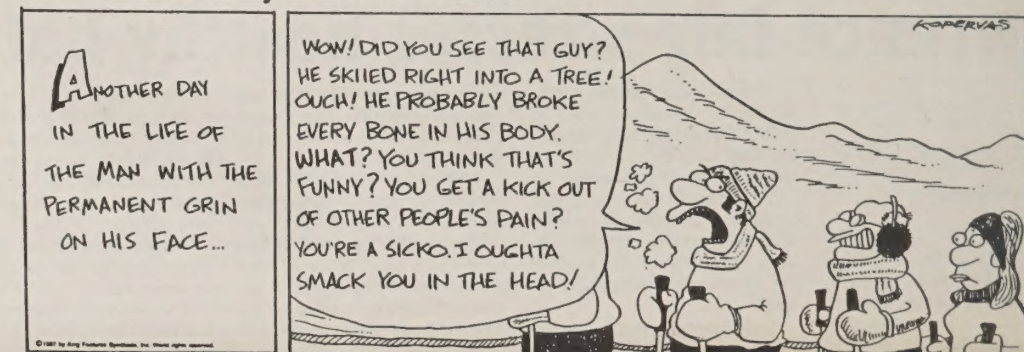
GEORGE by MARK SZORADY



MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS



Music Review

Indigo Girls latest harmonizes well

By **CHRIS BLASDEL**
Staff Reporter

The Indigo Girls are back in a big way with their newest release, "Shaming of the Sun."

It has been three years since their last release, "Swamp Ophelia" and after an extensive tour, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have gone back into the studio. The result is an excellent product of folk and rock that has given the Indigo Girls their spot in music.

After a successful college tour, "Shaming of the Sun" could not have come at a better time for the Indigo Girls.

The incredible response to the first single, "Shame on You," has made this release so popular. "Shame on You," a quirky rock song with a bit of folk, has been a cross-over success. The follow-up release, "Get Out the Map," is expected to do just as well.

The Indigo Girls are true musicians and it is obvious on this album. Ray and Saliers have an incredible way of harmonizing together and their music seems to click with their lyrics.

This album that defies any past release. Most of the songs on "Shaming of the Sun" are small vignettes on their lives.

Doing shows at colleges and universities have given the Indigo Girls a strong following. This release has also given the Indigo Girls the cross-over success they are due.

"Shaming of the Sun" is an excellent album. The Indigo Girls rock, and they rock hard on this album. Their catchy songs and beautiful harmonies are what make this album so good.

With summer just around the corner, the Indigo Girls have launched a summer tour. They play Great Woods on June 6.

Video Previews

May's videos feature Gibson, Streisand

By **KIM DIVINCENZO**
Staff Reporter

Celebrities are making video appearances this month. The movie business' leading men, Mel Gibson, George Clooney and Tom Cruise, all have a new film coming this month along with acclaimed actresses Shirley MacLaine, Nicole Kidman, and Barbara Streisand.

Shirley MacLaine and Jack Nicholson return to their roles of Aurora and Garret in the sequel to "Terms of Endearment," "The Evening Star," which comes to video on May 6. MacLaine struggles with her relationship with her granddaughter (Juliet Lewis) while she tries to set her love life straight.

Spike Lee's latest movie "Get On the Bus" drives into video stores on May 6 as well. Richard Belzer and Hill Harper star in this comedy-drama about a group of African-Americans who embark on a bus trip from Los Angeles to Washington because of Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March.

Nicole Kidman stars in "The Portrait of a Lady," an adaptation of Henry James' classic novel which comes to video on May 6. Her character is a woman determined to make a future for herself until her cousin stages her downfall.

On May 13, Mel Gibson appears in "Ransom." Gibson plays and airline owner whose son is kidnapped. The FBI wants Gibson to pay the ransom, but that doesn't ensure his son will be returned alive, so Gibson takes matters into his own hands.

Also on May 13 comes Rodney Dangerfield's new comedy "Meet Wally Sparks." Dangerfield plays a popular and vulgar talk show host who shakes things up at an elite social function causing the governor and his officials to figure a way to get rid of him.

Patrick Stewart and James Cromwell star in the sci-fi thriller "Star Trek First

Contact." "Planet-assimilating predators" are headed for Earth, but their first stop is the 21st century to stop the inventor of the time warp drive from taking his flight, and it is up to Stewart and the crew to save the day.

George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer star in the romantic comedy "One Fine Day," which comes out on video May 20. After Jack (Clooney) causes his and Melanie's (Pfeiffer) child to miss their bus, a chaotic day ensues and results in romance.

The suspenseful action-drama "Daylight" starring Sylvester Stallone escapes to video on May 20. A truck explosion traps a small group in the Holland Tunnel 100 feet below the Hudson River with no way out. Stallone, who used to be the head of the medical services team, tries to help the group escape as water levels rise and oxygen levels fall.

Also on May 20 comes Stephen King's newest horror tale, "Thinner," starring Robert John Burke and Michael Constantine. Burke is an overeater who desperately wants to lose weight.

After he accidentally runs over an old gypsy lady, the lady's father curses Burke with rapid weight loss. Burke begins to shed the weight all too quickly and looks as though he could disappear.

Barbara Streisand stars in the romantic comedy "The Mirror Has Two Faces" that will be on video May 27. Rose Morgan (Streisand) and Gregory Larkin (Jeff Bridges) form a marriage where the intellectual bond between them substitutes for sex. But their plan begins to fall apart when one of them decides they want more.

Finally on May 29 comes the Oscar-nominated "Jerry Maguire" starring the ever popular Tom Cruise. Jerry Maguire (Cruise) is a successful sports agent until he gets fired for writing an bad memo.

Along with a shy accountant who walks out of his firm to support him, he learns that money isn't everything in this hit film.

Baseballers end below .500 mark

◆ Team battles back from season's slow start

By ERIC LANGLOIS
Sports Editor

After a horrible start to the season, the NECC Knights have begun to get together as a team.

The Knights started the season losing 4 of their first 5 game. They have played .500 baseball going 5 and 5 in their last 10 games to bring their record to 6-9 with two games remaining.

"We are having a pretty good time," centerfielder and co-captain Tim Rooney said. "We started the season with some tough teams from Division II (Manchester College and Naugatuck Valley)."

The Knights lost a tough game to Mass Bay 3-2. The game was tied going into the bottom of the seventh when a triple and a double

ended the game. Leading the way for the Knights were Rooney, 2-4 with a double. Dave Kulis, Kevin Barry, Eric Lebel and Brandon Romano had one hit each in the loss.

The tough luck loser was Kulis who gave 3 runs, 5 hits and struck out 3 batters. The Knights had 6 hits in the game.

The Knights defeated Bunker Hill Community College 2-0. The game was scoreless until the sixth inning when the pitcher for Bunker Hill walked four batters to force in a run, and the Knights scored another run in the seventh inning with three hits in the inning. Leading the way for the Knights were Rooney, Patrick Rahilly, Romano and Eric Lapointe who had one hit each.

Barry was the recipient of a run batted in the sixth when he walked with the bases loaded to score what turned out to be the winning run. The winning pitcher was Rahilly who went the distance giving up five hits and striking out

two batters.

The Knights had an easy time with New Hampshire Tech College winning 8-2. The Knights took an early lead and never looked back in the game.

Leading the way for the Knights were Rooney, 2-4 with a double and two runs scored; Kulis, 2-3 with two runs and a run batted in; McGibbon, 2-3 with two runs scored and a run batted in; Jeremy Purington, Barry and Romano with one hit each. The winning pitcher was Romano who went the distance giving up two runs on six hits and striking out 15 batters.

The Knights were shut out by Springfield College 11-0 and

could not get anything going against the Springfield pitcher as they could only manage two hits. The Knights were led by Kulis and Lapointe who had the only hits of the game.

The Knights were swept by Holyoke College 16-1 and 6-3. The first game was scoreless until the third inning when Holyoke scored 10 runs on seven hits and four errors by the Knights.

Holyoke had 18 hits of losing pitcher Kulis and Lebel. The Knights defense committed five errors which resulted in six unearned runs.

Leading the way for the Knights were McGibbon, Purington, Rooney and Kulis, who had the only hits in the game.

In the second game, Holyoke took

a 4-0 lead in the first inning on five hits and held off the Knights in the late innings. The Knights had seven hits in the loss and were led by Purington, 3-4 with two doubles and a run scored; McGibbon, Rooney, Barry and Romano had one hit each.

The losing pitcher was Romano, who went the distance giving up 6 runs on nine hits while striking out nine batters.

"We have played well despite having a tough schedule," said coach Mike Caravella. "I am impressed with the way the team is playing and gelling together."

The Knights will finish the season with a doubleheader against Newbury College.

Baseball Team Statistics through 11 games

Player	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	AVG.
Tim Rooney	33	2	13	3	0	0	3	2	.394
Eric Lapointe	20	2	6	1	0	1	3	5	.300
Dave Kulis	27	3	7	1	0	0	4	7	.259
Jeremy Purington	34	3	8	2	0	0	2	3	.235
Brandon Romano	28	2	6	1	1	0	3	2	.214
Steve McGibbon	31	8	6	1	0	0	1	5	.194
Brian Moore	12	1	2	1	0	0	0	4	.167
Kevin Barry	31	2	5	1	1	1	4	1	.161
Eric Lebel	20	2	3	0	0	0	1	7	.150
Patrick Rahilly	15	3	1	1	0	0	0	4	.067

Fitness center wraps up an active spring semester

By ERIC LANGLOIS
Sports Editor

The spring semester brought with it improvements in the sport & fitness center.

"I decided to make the improvements in the center to attract the students," Athletic Director, Nita Lambourghini, said. "I also created 'Free Friday' so students have a chance to play games for free on Friday all semester long."

The fitness center also made some improvements by adding new equipment, such as a stairmaster, a lifecycle and a power rack. Rob Parker said the fitness center will be adding more equipment for the fall semester.

"The new equipment was added so more students and faculty will workout," Parker said. "The fitness center will be open during the summer semester."

The summer hours will be Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

The wellness and fitness center had several programs during the spring semester. In February, a program called "How to Get Fit Fast" was developed to help people stay in shape and it was offered at both campuses.

The sports center and recreation area had several activities throughout the semester. A few of the everyday activities were 3-on-3 basketball, aerobics, co-ed volleyball, a walking group and indoor soccer.

The spring semester had many highlights and lowlights.

Highlights:
The women's basketball team finished strong when they got back from the Christmas break.

The Knights won nine of their last twelve games, including the regional tournament to go to the national tournament in Kansas.

"It was a wonderful experience," Lynette Sbrano said. "I can now say to all my friends that I played on a college basketball team who went to the national tournament."

Despite losing two games in the national tournament, the women's basketball team finished with a record of 13-11.

"I am hoping to use the trip to the national tournament as a recruitment tool," coach Mike Smith said. "I found out that I need a couple of girls around six feet tall to compete at that level next year."

The college hired a new baseball coach, Mike Caravella. His goal is to keep the long tradition of winning for this program.

"My goal is to build a competitive team and generate some interest in the program," Caravella said. "I want to continue what (former coach) Mike Rowinski started here over the last few years."

The team traveled to Florida during spring break to practice and play some exhibition games. The team raised the money by having a 100-inning baseball game in the gym.

"The trip was a complete suc-

cess," Patrick Rahilly said. "We worked as a team and had some fun while we were there."

A tough schedule at the beginning of the season would prove to be too much for the Knights as they lost 4 of their first 5 games. The Knights played two Division II opponents and lost double-headers to those teams.

"We are beginning to gel as a team," Tim Rooney said recently. "We played some tough teams from Division II early in the season and I feel we are playing well together."

Lowlights:
A water main break under the gym in February, which flooded the gym, re-

sulted in the cancellation of several basketball games.

An early April snow storm forced

the men's baseball team to practice indoors to start the spring season.

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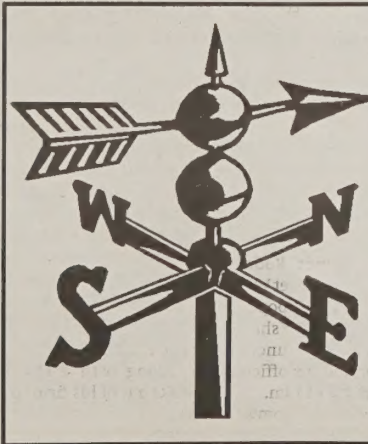
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Poet dazzles packed house

◆ X.J. Kennedy amazes students and faculty with charm, wit and humor

By GEORGE R. SCIONE
Editor

He sings, dances, reads and chants with a smile etched on his face at all times. He's a man, who in his own words, enjoys watching the joyous laughter of his audience when listening to his poetry.

X.J. Kennedy of Bedford, left everyone in attendance pining for more. Not more than five minutes after making faculty and staff erupt into laughter with almost every word at a private luncheon, Kennedy had the mixed crowd of students and faculty erupting in laughter together.

"I loved him," undeclared student Patricia Robinson said. "This is so great. I don't understand why this isn't done more often. I'd like to see stuff like this at least once a month or more."

Engineering student Matt Jacobs was even more excited with the poetry reading.

"Many people see my line of work and think poetry? No way," he said. "This was one of the greatest concerts or public readings I've been to. He is a great poet and his joyous reading and singing seems to brighten a room. It was great to see students and faculty together, enjoying the same type of thing."

Faculty members were just as amazed with his performance. Long-time friend of Kennedy, Eleanor Hope-McCarthy, English Department, was excited to see him and his wife Dorothy after many years apart.

"It was great to see them again," McCarthy said. "My husband Peter and I haven't seen them in about 20 years."

Kennedy graduated with Hope-McCarthy from the University of Michigan in the late '50s. He en-



Tickling the funny bone

WORDSMITH X.J. KENNEDY tantalizes his audience, fittingly ending National Poetry Month with a hearty good time.

joyed the day at NECC, mingling with faculty, students and people off the street who stepped in to hear him.

"It's a great joy to do things like this," Kennedy said. "No kidding, I really feel privileged reading to a group of people like this. Different ages. Different backgrounds. You meet a large number of people and get to interact with them. Who knows, sometimes you can grab a good poem or story out of the people you meet."

Kennedy read many different types of poems. He read both children poems and deeper poems only adults might be able to decipher, but it was the interaction people enjoyed the most.

"There's a difference in reading a poem or story in a class, from actually having the poet or novelist come in and discuss their works with the people who read them," Hope-McCarthy said. "What was special about this reading, was that (Kennedy) showed literature and music can be so much fun."

Kennedy got the crowd roaring with his singing rendition of "In a Prominent Bar in Secaucus One Day." Kennedy added some more of his children's poetry. His four-line poems, or "Brats" as he calls them discuss little children, mischief they get into and end with a solution where the children get what's coming to them.

With time winding down, Kennedy received a request from audience member Priscilla B. Bellairs, English department chair, when she asked him to recite "Emily Dickinson Leaves a Message to the World, Now that her Homestead in Amherst has an Answering Machine."

This a poem written about his calling for a tour of Dickinson's home and having to leave a message on the answering machine.

"He has tremendous insight into things that make up human relations," Robinson said. "His poems are so deep, and he is such an amazing person."

A former teacher at Tufts Uni-



Any requests?

TO END his reading time, Kennedy recites "Emily Dickinson Leaves a Message to the World, Now that Her Homestead in Amherst has an Answering Machine."

versity, Kennedy sees speaking to groups as no big task, but does miss teaching about the arts.

"I have had long arguments with myself," Kennedy said. "Always enjoyed teaching, and getting to know my students. Some

students I taught about 25 years ago are still friends and call every once and awhile."

As far as writing and teaching goes, "I never felt like a martyr for doing both," he said. "I love writing, I don't think I'll ever stop."

Business students honored at national leadership conference

◆ Professor also wins at national convention

By DANNY GOODWIN
Staff Reporter

They waited. The best essay they could have written had been submitted and now it was only a question of who would win.

Pam Donahue, professor, department of office technology and Beta Omicron adviser, is happy with the announcement of this year's honorees.

"I'm very pleased the three girls took the time and effort, and that they took time out of their busy schedules," Donahue said. "I felt proud the students did such a great job and I could represent them."

"I figured they must have chosen," student Theresa Caswell said. "I felt like I had done my best, and I was curious what the winners essay was like, and how I could improve mine."

Caswell said this was her chance to do her best because she might never get the opportunity again.

"I strive to be a good role model for my three children by striving to be the best I can, and showing them that I am,"

she said.

In the end, Caswell didn't have to change a word because she won the Mary Bone Competitive Essay Award. The award is given for the best submission of an essay titled "What Alpha Beta Gamma Means to Me."

For writing the best essay she will receive \$500 and a plaque. The essay will also be printed in the Beta Omicron newsletter.

Caswell, an office technology major, is a member of Beta Omicron, the local chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma, an international business honor society for two-year colleges. She is going to graduate this spring, but said continuing her education here in some way would be preferable, because her professors are partly responsible for her success.

"I'll take the experience to improve my skills with a lot more confidence and remember how it felt to win," she said. "I don't want to leave this fun atmosphere, and I get emotional thinking about it."

Two other members of the chapter, Lisa Pappas and Nancy Ellen Prudente, received honorable mention for their essays.

Pappas, a marketing major, wrote her essay about overcoming struggles with a learning disability and how Beta Omicron helped make college worthwhile.

"I've finally reached a good level of confidence in every part of my life," Pappas

said. "It's a good experience and will be nice to look back on because I had a difficult time getting started."

Pappas will continue her education, working towards a degree by next year. She also will be looking into internships because now she feels nothing is out of her reach any longer.

Prudente, a business management major, said this announcement and being named to the National Honor Society gave her self-esteem a boost.

"I can always look at this and say 'I can do it,'" Prudente said. "At first I was too chicken to return to school, but now I'm doing it for myself because I want to go."

Beta Omicron was established in 1989 for students enrolled in a business program who completed 12 credits and have a GPA of 3.0. The adviser sends out letters to students when they become eligible to join.

Donahue, and other advisers, Frank Leary, professor, department of business administration; Patricia Taglianetti, coordinator, health information technology, and Helen Kinnierly, help students with employment, transfers to a four-year college, scholarships and a membership diploma.

Donahue credits each adviser with



Head of the class

ALPHA BETA GAMMA award winners: Lisa Pappas, Nancy Prudente, Professor Pam Donahue and Theresa Caswell.

contributing to the success of Beta Omicron.

The announcement of the winners took place in San Diego at the National Leadership Conference of Alpha Beta Gamma in March. At the conference Donahue received the Dr. C. George Alvey Distinguished Fellowship Award, given to a faculty adviser who has made great contributions to Alpha Beta Gamma.

"I felt very elated and honored my colleagues submitted my name for the award," Donahue said.

"He's done so much in the past," she said of Alvey. "I'm very honored to be in his company because without his leader-

G. Scione photo

G. Scione photo

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